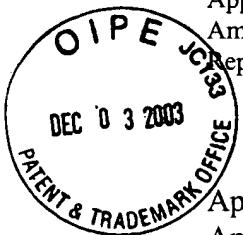


Appl. No. 09/916,136
Amendment Dated December 2, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 2, 2003



Appl. No. : 09/916,136
Applicant : Rocha et al.
Filed : 07/26/2001
TC/A.U. : 1617
Examiner : Shengjun Wang

Docket No. : 3357/1US
Customer No. : 26648

Confirmation No. 8218

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Commissioner for Patents
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of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria V.A. 22313.
Keianaa N. Hall

 Date: December 2, 2003

AMENDMENT C

Sir:

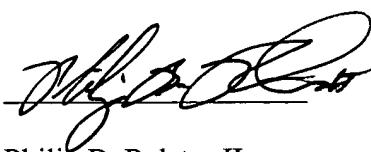
In response to the Office Action mailed July 2, 2003, (Paper No. 17), please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 7
of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

**A Request for an Extension of Time for Four (4) months to Reply to the Office
Action Mailed July 2, 2003** up to and including December 2, 2003 is hereby requested.
Any fees for the making of this amendment, including the extension of time, are hereby
authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-1025.



Philip B. Polster II
Reg. No. 43,864
Attorney for Applicant